

Marian J. Sena at Research Foundation of the City University of New York– Hostos Community College Allied Health Career Pipeline Program

Marian Sena, a single mother of two young children, was facing eviction when she entered Hostos Community College's Allied Health Career Pipeline Program, a Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) program funded by the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance. After coming to the United States from the Dominican Republic in 2003, she worked in a fast food restaurant. By 2011, she was employed as an administrative assistant, even though English is not her native language.

Seeking a way to improve her circumstances, Marian enrolled in and successfully completed Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training with the Allied Health Career Pipeline Program. Finding herself in a tough financial situation, she was given a referral to one of the Pipeline Program's partners, Start Small Think Big, for financial counseling and advisement.

At the end of the training, Marian told the case manager that her housing was in jeopardy. With rent in arrears, she was required to pay the entire sum in 30 days or face eviction. She applied for assistance; however, the amount awarded her was not sufficient to cover the rental arrears. As a result, the career services team began to work diligently to secure employment for Marian. She interviewed at Lincoln Hospital, one of the program's employer partners, for a sitter's position and was hired.

After only one month in the sitter's position, Marian was promoted to Patient Care Technician (PCT), which increased her salary by more than 60 percent. Her housing situation has since stabilized, and she has set a long-term goal of becoming a Registered Nurse.